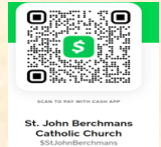


St. John Berchmans Catholic Church

1147 Cupples Road, San Antonio, TX 78226 210-434-3247 FAX 210-432-0431

www.stjohnberchmans.com



Venmo

Welcoming and liturgical community celebrating the spiritual needs of God's people in the spirit of St. John Berchmans.
"My penance is to live the common life. I will pay greatest attention to the least inspiration of God." - St. John Berchmans

Parish Office Staff:

- Fr. Fidèle O. Dikete, Pastor •

Stella Rico, Secretary
Olivia Lopez, Bookkeeper/Office Manager
Andrew Solis, Bus Maintenance
Christine McWilliams, Web Master/ FB

Connie Peché & Nancy Ramirez, Family Records
Joan Orosco, Sacristan/Bereavement
Jessica Ramos, Sacramental Records
Cynthia Sandoval, Director of Religious Education

Raquel Castillo, Office Volunteer
Olivia Santoyo, Bulletin Editor
Grace Salinas, Office Volunteer

Parish Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 9am-5pm
Saturday 10am-2pm

Mass Times:

Saturday Vigil 5pm-English
Sunday 9am-Bilingual
Sunday 11am-English

Weekday Services:

Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 12 Noon

School Mass:

Wednesdays 8:15am (School Calendar)

Holy Days of Obligation:

Bilingual Mass at 7pm

Reconciliation:

Saturday 4:00pm or by appointment

Adoration:

Every Thursday 9am-5pm

Baptisms/Quinceñeras/Sweet 16:

Please contact office for more information

Baptism Classes:

Please contact office for more information

Weddings:

Father Fidèle Dikete, Pastor
Please make an appointment
six months in advance.

CCD:

Sunday 9:30am – 12 Noon

Good Samaritans of SJB:

Monday and Friday; 3pm - 5pm

SJB School: Nora Garcia, Principal - 210-433-0411

Parish Ministries

ACTS CORE FACILITATOR:

Laura Castañeda missc2060@yahoo.com

ALTAR SERVERS:

Eddie Campa ecampa@swiri.org

CHOIRS:

Saturday 5pm Choir

John A. Campa jhowardcampa@aol.com

Sunday 9am Choir

Roy Sanchez rsanchez34@satx.rr.com

Sunday 11am Choir

Javier Saucedo javierrufus@gmail.com

CYO:

Michael S. Rodriguez stjbcyo@gmail.com

CAFETERIA RENTAL:

Cecilia Sandoval cecilсанд@yahoo.com

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

Linda Campbell linda40849@satx.rr.com

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Elida Gonzales redg90@sbcglobal.net

GOOD SAMARITANS OF SJB:

John Diaz johndiaz7538@sbcglobal.net
Angie Diaz

GUADALUPANAS:

Sylvia Quintana squintana7678@gmail.com

FORMATION HOUSE RENTAL :

Cecilia Sandoval cecilсанд@yahoo.com

HOSPITALITY:

Kathy Flores kflores0411@att.net

JOY MINISTRY:

Jessica Ramos jessicamosfischer@gmail.com
Chayo Gomez tootsweez@hotmail.com

LECTORS:

Stella Rico stellav28@att.net

LITURGY COMMITTEE:

Joan Orosco dorosco08@yahoo.com

PASTORAL COUNCIL:

Kimberly Mata mata_kimberly@yahoo.com

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

Cyndi Sandoval ventimochaftrap@yahoo.com

ROSARY MAKERS:

Victoria Sanchez

SHARE THE WORD:

Rosalinda Garza Garza_rosalinda@att.net

VIGIL TEAM:

Oralia Cantu dduran57@outlook.com
Dora Duran

DECEMBER 22, 2024 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 22, 2024 www.stjohnberchmans.com

COMFORT AND SALVATION

All of today's scriptures seem to declare Christmas's "comfort and joy." Micah declares that, as small as Bethlehem is, the child born there will bring peace that "shall reach to the ends of the earth." Hebrews proclaims that, despite pain and suffering, the "offering of the body of Jesus Christ" saves us all.

In today's Gospel, bearing the Christ Child within her, Mary, barely more than a child herself, immediately, unselfishly sets aside her own preoccupations—and as a betrothed but as yet unmarried mother-to-be, how many they must have been—to travel in haste, over dangerous terrain, a four-day journey (the scholars say) from Nazareth to Ain-Karem, to the home of Elizabeth and Zechariah.

BLESSED

Then, just as David leapt and danced before the ancient Ark of the Covenant that bore precious signs of God's abiding presence, so John leaps in his mother Elizabeth's womb as Mary arrives, a living ark bearing God's living presence. Elizabeth joyfully greets Mary in words that we pray daily in the "Hail Mary": "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." Why Mary is so "blessed" Elizabeth then explains: "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." Likewise, we may dare hope to be "blessed" for "believing that what was spoken" to us "by the Lord"—Jesus' promise of mercy—will be fulfilled as we share God's mercy with everyone. For by reason of our baptism and, more immediately and repeatedly, because of our participation in the Eucharist, we too bear within ourselves the living Christ. To whom, or to what situation, do we need to bear Christ this Christmas? Indeed, throughout the year, how selflessly do we set our own concerns aside? How eagerly—"in haste"—do we, disregarding difficulties, traverse whatever dangerous terrain needs conquering to be of service to another?

TODAY'S READINGS: Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

CONSUELO Y SALVACIÓN

Todas las Escrituras de hoy parecen declarar el "consuelo y la alegría" de la Navidad. Miqueas declara que, por pequeña que sea Belén, el niño que allí nazca traerá la paz que "llegará hasta los confines de la tierra". La carta a los hebreos proclama que, a pesar del dolor y el sufrimiento, la "ofrenda del cuerpo de Jesucristo" nos salva a todos. En el Evangelio de hoy, María, que apenas es una niña, deja de lado inmediatamente sus propias preocupaciones —y como futura madre desposada, pero aún no casada, cuántas debían de ser— para viajar a toda prisa, por un terreno peligroso, en un viaje de cuatro días (según los estudiosos) desde Nazaret a Ain-Karem, hasta la casa de Isabel y Zacarías.

BENDITO

Entonces, al igual que David saltó y danzó ante la antigua Arca de la Alianza que llevaba preciosos signos de la presencia permanente de Dios, así Juan salta en el vientre de su madre Isabel cuando María llega, un arca viva que lleva la presencia viva de Dios. Isabel saluda con alegría a María con las palabras que rezamos a diario en el "Ave María": "Bendita eres entre las mujeres y bendito es el fruto de tu vientre". Por qué María es tan bendita", explica entonces Isabel: "Dichosa tú que has creído que se iba a cumplir lo que te ha dicho el Señor". Del mismo modo, podemos atrevernos a esperar ser "bienaventurados" por "creer que lo que nos fue dicho" por el Señor —la promesa de misericordia de Jesús— se cumplirá al compartir la misericordia de Dios con todos. En efecto, por nuestro bautismo y, más inmediata y repetidamente, por nuestra participación en la Eucaristía, también nosotros llevamos dentro a Cristo vivo. ¿A quién, o a qué situación, tenemos que llevar a Cristo en esta Navidad? De hecho, a lo largo del año, ¿con qué desinterés dejamos de lado nuestras propias preocupaciones? ¿Con qué entusiasmo —"con prisa"— atravesamos, sin tener en cuenta las dificultades, cualquier terreno peligroso que haya que conquistar para servir a los demás?

LECTURAS DE HOY: Mi 5:1-4; Sal 80:2-3, 15-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lc 1:39-45



Please Pray for the Sick

Prayer List Updates



Sarah Contreras	Gloria Rubio	Robert Treviño
Marty Carrera Tobias	Rebecca Zuniga	Sulema Hernandez
Frances Lozano	Rosa Elva Villaseñor	Lucio Vasquez
Irma Urias	Lupe Gomez	Buddy Ochoa
Mary S. Martinez	Angie Canales	Cristina Santoyo
Galilea Romero	Rosie Gallegos	Rosa Moreno
Iris Luna Sullivan	Richard Santoyo	Roger Arizpe
Emma O. Velasquez	Lucy Treviño & Family	Daniel Rodriguez
Raymond Sarabia	Mickey S. Carrasco	Marisol Longoria-Parker
Julissa Rodriguez	Robert Prieto	Jerry Salazar
Miliana Bullock	Elizabeth Rose Valdez	Baby Ezra Rios
Lydia Soriano	Mary Rose Cerda	Henry Castro
Robert Sanchez	Zander from WA.	Socorro Castillo
Vanessa Quintero	Henrietta Ramos	Alexis Ramos
Virginia R. Lucio	Cecilia Muñoz	Clarissa Ramos
Guadalupe Rodriguez	Zachary Lopez	Nicole Guerra
Lori Bañuelos	Joseph Vasquez	Michelle Tijerina
Edith Flores	Vanessa Gomez	Bryan Ramos
Isaiah Vasquez	Ybarra Family	Daniel Vasquez, Jr.

We thank God for the healing of so many sick parishioners. Please be courteous and call the Parish Office if your loved one is no longer suffering or sick. Thank you.



STEWARDSHIP FOR THE WEEK

ENDING DECEMBER 15, 2024

5 PM Mass	-\$	614.00
9 AM Mass	-\$	1,193.00
11 AM Mass	-\$	1,468.00
Altar Flowers	-\$	580.00 2nd Coll
Drop In/Mail In	-\$	1,956.00
On Line	-\$	200.00
Gift of Giving	-\$	180.52
TOTAL		\$ 6,919.52

SECOND COLLECTION

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR CHURCH!

2024 GIFT OF GIVING

Contributions ending Dec. 15, 2024	\$	180.52
NEW BALANCE	\$	1,890.55

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 21

5:00 p.m. † Rick Gonzales - Vidal Family
 † Martin Rivera - Raquel & Family

Sunday, December 22

9:00 a.m. † Daniel C. & Maria Arzola - Family
 † Francisco & Tomasa Ibarra -
 Daughter Leonor

† Frank Rodriguez - Wife
Gift of Life Carolina Rose Santoyo - Family
Gift of Life Aria Reese Flores - Family

11:00 a.m. † Daniel Lizalde - Patty Lizalde

Monday, December 23

Tuesday, December 24

6:00 p.m. † Justin Rey Martinez - Family

12 Midnight For all the Souls in Purgatory

Wednesday, December 25 - NATIVITY OF THE LORD

10:00 a.m. † Robert Gallegos, Sr. - Wife & Family
 † Luis Duran, Sr. - Wife & Family
 † Daniel "Danny" Romero - Family
 † Hector Sanchez - Sam & Priscilla
 † Daniel Lizalde - Patty Lizalde

Gift of Life Natividad Cruz - Cruz Family

Thursday, December 26

12:00 p.m. Suzanna Tellez - SJB Family
For Health Diana Calderon - SJB Family

Friday, December 27

12:00 p.m. † Benito Castro - Family
For Health Lucio Vasquez - SJB Family



THE SANCTUARY CANDLE LIT BY THE TABERNACLE BURNS FOR:

† Daniel Lizalde
 Linda Campbell

Let us remember the lamp is a mark of honor. It is to remind the faithful of the presence of Christ, and is a profession of their love and affection.



Dear Parishioners and Friends:

Merry Christmas to you and your families. May Jesus Christ our Savior bring you hope, love, joy and peace!

I thank each one of you who participated in different celebrations this past week such as the Christmas play by the students in our great school of St. John Berchmans, reconciliation service, leaders Christmas celebration and Santa's visit in the neighborhoods. Let us continue being joyful, hopeful, people of love and peace, on this fourth week of Advent as we prepare for the coming of our Savior. Please make time to participate in the Christmas celebrations to be held on Tuesday, December 24th at 6 pm, Christmas Vigil Mass, Wednesday, December 25th at midnight, Christmas mass and at 10 am Christmas bilingual mass. You also are invited to enjoy our Christmas Carols at 11:30 pm before the midnight mass on Wednesday, December 25th.

I am very proud to announce that our annual Christmas Gift of Giving has successfully assisted more than 30 families. Thanks to my generous parishioners, \$12,000 was collected throughout the year and were distributed amongst more than 30 families. Once again, I thank my parishioners for another successful year in helping families celebrate Christmas.

Once again, I thank my parishioners for another successful year in helping families celebrating Christmas.

We also were able to distribute more than 500 gifts to the children in the neighborhood as Santa and the Evangelization team embarked on the adventure with Jesus by bringing toys and gifts to the children during this Christmas season. I thank all the volunteers who participated in collecting and wrapping gifts, all of you who donated toys, gift cards and money, ultimately the Evangelization committee for their efforts in making this project very successful. God bless you always.

Each year, upon the request of the Archbishop Gustavo Siller, I nominate a parishioner who has demonstrated a commitment to the community, the teaching of the church, and who is in good standing with the church and community to receive the Lumen Gentium Award, the light to the nation. This Award is bestowed by the Archbishop. This experience of choosing a recipient has always been a difficult decision given that our parish relies on volunteers to continue its saving mission. This year our Sister Olivia Santoyo has been chosen to receive this award on the following criteria:

- Registered parishioner for 20 years
- Married in the church for 12 years
- Sunday Bulletin Editor
- Lector
- Cleans the church quarterly as a family.

I have also recognized several leaders for their commitment and loyalty to St. John Berchmans. A plaque has been given to each one of them in appreciation for their dedication to the church in support for its saving mission and grace.

Thank you for your generosity and God Bless you,

Father Fidèle Okitembo Dikete, Pastor
 fr.fidele@stjohnberchmans.com



THE LAST SUNDAY OF THE ADVENT SEASON is this weekend, and the fourth candle is lit on this day along with the first three. It is the angel's candle reminding us of the heavenly hosts that proclaimed Christ's arrival with, "Behold, I bring unto you the tiding of great joy!"

The culmination of the Advent season reminds us of the announcement of Christ's coming and that God is with us. Mary's proclamation calls us to be reminded that our joy does not rest solely in our material comfort or discomfort but in a divine promise that has been fulfilled in the eternal Word becoming flesh and God becoming like us in the deepest sense of the word. In the previous week, we saw joy as being regarded by God, and knowing that our difficult circumstances were not the entirety of our lives, or knowing that God regards us, and that God sees us. And from this space of joy, we see our lives in new ways.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sunday, December 22

9:00 a.m. MASS - Church
11:00 a.m. MASS - Church

Monday, December 23

Tuesday, December 24

6:00 p.m. VIGIL MASS - Church
11:30 p.m. Christmas Carols - Church
12 Midnight ENGLISH MASS - Church

Wednesday, December 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

10:00 a.m. BILINGUAL MASS - Church
2:00 p.m. 15 Minutes with Fr. Fidèle

Thursday, December 26 - PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Friday, December 27

12:00 p.m. MASS - Chapel

Saturday, December 28

8:00 a.m. Church Cleaning
5:00 p.m. MASS - Church



BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

All requests must be sent by email to osantoyo1104@gmail.com and will be finalized for approval by Father Fidèle. Bulletins are printed on Thursdays.

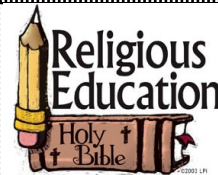


NEW TO OUR PARISH AND WANT TO REGISTER AS A NEW PARISHIONER?

We encourage all newcomers to register and get to know your parish community. Please contact our Parish Office at 210-434-3247 to fill out a registration form.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.



St. John Berchmans Religious Education program will NOT conduct classes on Sunday, December 22, 2024 and on Sunday, December 29, 2024.

Classes will resume on Sunday, January 5, 2025.

On behalf of our Religious Education staff may you and your families enjoy a peaceful and joyous holiday season.

PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH AND WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25TH.

OFFICE WILL OPEN ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26TH AT 9 AM. HAVE A BLESSED HOLIDAY!

RAFFLE TICKET DRAWING

Christmas Raffle Will take place this Wednesday, December 25, 2024, after the 10am Mass. Thank you to all who sold their tickets and for your continued support and generosity.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon: Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66
Tue: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79
Wed: Isa 52:7-10; Ps 98: 1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18
Thu: Acts 6: 8-10, 7:54-59; Ps 31:3b-4;6-9; Mt 10:17-22
Fri: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2,5,6,11; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Sat: 1 Jn 1:5-2:2; Ps 124:1-5,7b-8; Mt 2:13-18



Our Church Cleaning Ministry meets EVERY SATURDAY @ 8AM to clean our beautiful place of worship.

MINISTRY SCHEDULED DECEMBER 28, 2024